

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

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1. A temperature indicating surface comprising:  
a layer of material which substantially irreversibly changes from a first appearance to a second appearance in response to exposure to a threshold temperature, wherein a first portion of said layer of material is initially free from exposure to said threshold temperature and has said first appearance, and wherein a second portion of said layer of material is initially exposed to said threshold temperature and has said second appearance, whereby said first portion and said second portion form a visible pattern.

2. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 1 wherein subsequent exposure of said first and second portions of said layer of material to said threshold temperature produces said second appearance on said first portion, thereby resulting in a uniform appearance of said first and second portions.

3. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 2 wherein said layer of material is comprised of a material which irreversibly fuses in response to said threshold temperature.

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4. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 3 wherein said layer of material is formed on a label.

5. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 4 wherein said label includes a support surface.

6. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 5 further including an adhesive layer on said support surface.

7. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 3 wherein said visible pattern includes text.

8. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 3 wherein said visible pattern includes cross-hatching.

9. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 3 wherein said visible pattern includes parallel dashes.

10. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 3 wherein said visible pattern includes dots.

11. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 1 wherein said second portion of said layer of material is initially exposed to said threshold temperature by direct thermal contact.

12. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 1 wherein said second portion of said layer of material is initially exposed to said threshold temperature by indirect thermal contact.

13. A temperature indicating surface including:

an absorptive layer with a first pattern printed thereon;

a second pattern printed with irreversibly fusible material on a surface of said absorptive layer over said first pattern, thereby at least partially obscuring said first pattern; and

wherein said irreversibly fusible material, upon exposure to a threshold temperature, melts and is absorbed into said absorptive layer, thereby exposing said first pattern to view.

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14. A temperature indicating surface including a first portion comprised of material which changes from a first appearance to a second appearance in response to exposure to a threshold temperature, said first portion initially being of said first appearance, and further including a second portion of said second appearance.

15. The temperature indicating surface of Claim 14 wherein upon exposure to said threshold temperature, said first portion and said second portion present a substantially uniform second appearance.